Will the Government be pleased to state :—

What action they propose to take on the Gundappa Gowda Committee Report on Land Reforms ?

A.—Sri Kadidal MANJAPPA (Minister for Revenue and Public Works).—

The Report of the Committee is under examination and action is being taken on the several recommendations of the L.R.R. Committee.

Audit of the accounts of the Local Self-Government Institutions.

Q.—520. Sri B. N. BORANNA GOWDA (Belur).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the procedure adopted for the audit of the accounts of the Local Self-Government Institutions in the State, *viz.*, Municipalities and District Boards ;

(*b*) once in how many years auditing is being done ;

(*c*) whether there are any accounts in the District Boards and Municipalities which have not been audited for over ten years ;

(*d*) how many years back the accounts of the District Board, Hassan, were audited ?

A.—Sri T. CHANNIAH (Minister for Public Health and Local Self-Government).—

(*a*) The audit of the accounts of Local Bodies is entrusted to the Controller, State Accounts Department, who is assisted by three Circle Officers having jurisdiction over three districts each as noted below. Detailed local audit of the accounts of the institutions is conducted by the Auditors of the Department under the general supervision of the Controller and Circle Officers :—

Bangalore Circle.—Bangalore, Kolar and Tumkur Districts ;

Mysore Circle.—Mysore, Hassan and Mandya Districts ;

Shimoga Circle.—Shimoga, Chitaldrug and Chikmagalur Districts.

(*b*) Audit is conducted once a year.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) The accounts of the District Board, Hassan, for the years 1949-50 and 1950-51 are now under audit.

PRIVILEGE MOTION. *re* ANSWER TO QUESTION No. 217.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Sri J. Mohamed Imam and Sri S. Srinivasa Iyengar have given notice of a Privilege motion in the following terms :—

> " This House resolves that the answer furnished by the Government to Question No. 217 (Part III) referring the members of this House to the various previous Budget statements, instead of giving specific answers on each point raised therein, constitutes a breach of privilege of members of this House ".

Under rule 173 (4) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, it is the duty of the Speaker to first determine whether the motion involves a *prima facie* case of privilege before referring the question to the Committee of Privileges.

I might at once state that the Chair has no responsibility in regard to answers furnished by the Government. The Chair has no authority to insist that answer be given or that any particular or specific answer be furnished to any question. There are several rulings of other Legislatures and even of our Legislature in the past on this question, but I may refer to only one of them. In the Central Legislative Assembly on the 20th February 1939 when a member objected to a particular answer and asked the Chair " May I ask, Sir, as regard the way in which these questions are answered that you should direct the Government to answer the questions that are put to them ? ", the President observed " Hon'ble Member knows very well that the Chair has no such function at all. If the Hon'ble Member finds that the answer is not satisfactory it is up to him to find any remedy he can. The Chair has no authority in the matter. "